BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   CONTACT: Teresa Lee
October 16, 2000   **415-749-4900**

Open Burning Season Ends for Wildlife Management

The open burning season for wildlife management ended Sunday, October 15, 2000, according to Ellen Garvey, Air Pollution Control Officer for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The wildlife management open burning season, which began September 1, applies to lowland and marsh areas that provide habitat for game and wildlife. The next burn period for wildlife management will run from February 1 through March 31, 2001.

Open burning has been regulated in the Bay Area since 1957 because of its considerable contribution to air pollution. While backyard burning of leaves, trash, and grass cuttings or prunings has been prohibited in the Bay Area since 1970, certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards are exempted from District regulations for specified periods throughout the year.

Although certain fires are allowed during the appropriate burn season, each day of the year is designated as either a BURN or a NO BURN day. Days when air pollution caused by open burning would be minimized by favorable weather conditions are designated as BURN days.

Allowed fires can <u>only</u> take place on a BURN day. This means that even though a burn season may be in effect, the party seeking open burn authorization must check with the Air District for daily burn status prior to burning. BURN/NO BURN days are forecasted by 3 p.m. on the District's toll-free number **1-800-HELP-AIR** for the following day.

Open burning seasons apply to the entire Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties. For additional information, residents may call the District's Public Information Office at (415) 749-4900. To register complaints about illegal burning or other odor problems, call the District's 24-hour complaint line at 1-800-334-ODOR.

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